

## Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-11 SWF-02 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6834

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS ROME 12483

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IT

SUBJ: LATEST ITALIAN WHEAT AND FEEDGRAIN CROP ESTIMATES

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE FAS/GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION

1. SUMMARY. LATEST CENTRAL STATISTICAL INSITUTE FORECASTS  
ON WHEAT AND FEEDGRAINS SHOW HIGHER SOFT WHEAT PRODUCTION BUT  
LOWER DURUM AND CORN PRODUCTION THAN IS OUR AUGUST REPORT.  
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE THE LATEST OFFICIAL FORECASTS FOR PRODUC-  
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TION OF WHEAT.

## 1974 ITALIAN WHEAT CROP

| PERCENT<br>CHANGE<br>FROM<br>AREA |        | PERCENT<br>CHANGE<br>FROM<br>PRODUCTION |          | PERCENT<br>YIELD<br>PER<br>HEC. | CHANGE<br>FROM<br>1973 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1973                              | (HEC.) | (M. TONS)                               | (M.TONS) | 1973                            | 1973                   |

## SOFT OR

## BREAD

|       |           |         |           |         |     |         |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----|---------|
| WHEAT | 2,161,262 | PLS 4.6 | 6,660,000 | PLS 6.1 | 3.1 | PLS 4.0 |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----|---------|

## DURUM

|       |           |         |           |          |     |         |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|-----|---------|
| WHEAT | 1,579,178 | PLS 3.5 | 2,930,000 | PLS 11.7 | 1.9 | PLS 5.5 |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|-----|---------|

|       |           |         |           |         |  |  |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|--|--|
| TOTAL | 3,740,440 | PLS 4.1 | 9,590,000 | PLS 7.7 |  |  |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|--|--|

RELIABLE UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES ARE EVEN SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC FOR BREAD WHEAT: 6.8 MILLION METRIC TONS. BUT THESE UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES ALSO ANTICIPATE 2.7 MILLION METRIC TONS OF DURUM WHEAT PRODUCED THIS YEAR, LOWER THAN THE OFFICIAL ESTIMATE. THIS DECLINE IN PRODUCTION IN PRODUCTION OF DURUM WHEAT, ACCORDING TO THE UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES, WOULD INDICATE IMPORTS OF AROUND 400/600,000 METRIC TONS OF DURUM TO COVER THE ITALIAN REQUIREMENT AND TO BUILD UP SOME STOCKS. THE EXPECTED LARGER SUPPLY OF BREAD WHEAT MAY MEAN ITALIANS WILL BE FEEDING MORE BREAD WHEAT TO THE LIVESTOCK THIS YEAR, ESPECIALLY IF PRICES OF FEED GRAINS, PARTICULARLY CORN, SHOULD INCREASE FURTHER FROM THEIR ALREADY HIGH LEVELS.

REVISED ESTIMATES OF FEEDGRAINS ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION FOR 1974-75 CROP YEAR INDICATE THE FOLLOWING:

| AREA | PERCENT CHANGE<br>FROM 1973-74 | PRODUCTION | PERCENT CHANGE<br>FROM 1973-74 |
|------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
|------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|

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|        | (HEC.)  |          | (M.TONS) |          |  |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| RYE    | 16.719  | - 6.0    | 36,860   | - 3.0    |  |
| BARLEY | 222,862 | PLS 10.0 | 552,100  | PLS 20.5 |  |
| OATS   | 235,973 | - 1.0    | 460,500  | PLS 10.0 |  |

THE CORN CROP HAS YET TO BE HARVESTED. THE MAJOR FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS YEAR'S CORN HARVEST IS EXPECTED

TO DECLINE BETWEEN 10 AND 15 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR'S OUTPUT  
OF 4,923,100 METRIC TONS, DUE TO DROUGHT DAMAGE.

REPORTEDLY, THE RICE CROP HAS RECOUPED RATHER CONSIDERABLY  
FROM LATE SUMMER RAINFALL. HOWEVER, A SLIGHT REDUCTION MAY  
BE EXPECTED IN THIS YEAR'S OUTPUT COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR'S  
RECORD CROP OF 1.0 MILLION METRIC TONS AND THE PREVIOUS ESTIMATE  
OF 965,000 METRIC TONS.VOLPE

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